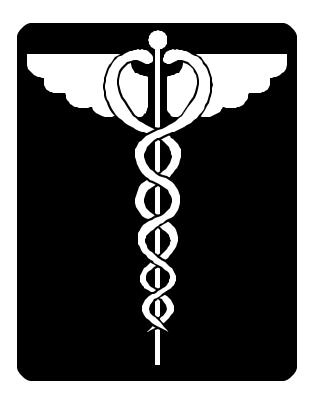
2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise

EXERCISE CONTACTToolkit

State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority



NOVEMBER 15, 2001



State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

July 18, 2001

Dear Exercise Contact,

First, let us say thank you for the time, collaboration and hard work you are about to take on to make the 3rd annual Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise, on November 15, 2001, a success in your operational area/county. This year, the Exercise Planning Group has put together an exercise that combines a large-scale trauma incident (an incident that can be a terrorist event) with decontamination and shelter-in-place elements. This type of event could happen in any community in California and unfortunately is becoming a reality for us all. Planning, preparing and exercising are critical to successful management of such an incident.

The 2001 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise Guidebooks are enclosed for your distribution to participants in your area. Printed numbers of guidebooks are limited, but the full guidebook can be downloaded from the EMS Authority website at www.emsa.ca.gov, or you may contact Cheryl Starling at 916-322-4336/or at cheryl.starling@emsa.ca.gov for additional printed copies. The Exercise Planning Group heard your recommendations after last year's exercise, and produced the guidebooks for distribution in July, giving you more time to prepare and collaborate with participants. Your comments and recommendations are very important in making the exercise worthwhile to the medical and health community!

The Exercise Contact Toolkit will assist you in organizing, planning and executing the November 15th disaster exercise. Enclosed are materials to assist you with the use of the Response Information Management System (RIMS) and a hotwash/debriefing questionnaire to help guide you in your evaluation of the exercise. The Regional Disaster Medical/Health Specialist (RDMHS) will announce a date for and coordinate a regional hotwash using those questions. The RDMHS will then convey your hotwash information when they participate in a State hotwash. Materials to assist you in educating facilities and agencies about sheltering-in-place are enclosed in the "2001 Statewide Medical/Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook".

Please contact your RDMHS for any questions or assistance you may need.

Thank you for your commitment to disaster preparedness and making the 2001 Disaster Exercise a success!

Sincerely,

The Disaster Exercise Planning Group



State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

Exercise Contact Toolkit

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY STATEWIDE MEDICAL & HEALTH DISASTER EXERCISE

EXERCISE CONTACT TOOLKIT A GUIDE FOR MEDICAL/HEALTH OPERATIONAL AREA EXERCISE CONTACTS November 15, 2001

The following materials are offered to assist you in your preparation for the exercise and performance during the exercise.

Pre-Exercise Checklist

Preparing the Materials

Compile, at a minimum, the following materials:

- 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook for November 15, 2001 from the Emergency Medical Services Authority, focusing on the following documents:
 - Exercise Objectives (Exercise Guidebook, page 2)
 - Exercise Scenario (Exercise Guidebook, page 5)
 - Master Sequence of Events (Exercise Guidebook, page 7)
 - o Intent to participate Forms
 - Healthcare Facility/Ambulance Provider (Exercise Guidebook, page 13)
 - Amateur Radio (Exercise Guidebook, page 14)
 - Operational Area (Exercise Guidebook, page 15)
 - ** Note: supplies of the printed Exercise Guidebook are limited. Contact Cheryl Starling at cheryl.starling@emsa.ca.gov for additional copies, or download and print the entire Exercise Guidebook from the website at www.emsa.ca.gov.
- Messages constructed from the scenario to provide to the participants, either by hand or over communications systems.
- ZZ A list of key contact information for participants and outside organizations.
- Critique forms used by your organization and the "Hotwash/Debriefing Form" in this Exercise Contact Toolkit, page 28.

Coordination with Other Organizations

Contact other organizations involved in the next few weeks in order to confirm the time and level of participation. Complete the following:

- Clearly identify a representative from each participating healthcare facility, ambulance provider, and amateur radio volunteer group.
- Provide them with several phone numbers where you can be reached the day of the exercise, as well as relevant fax and e-mail addresses.
- Inform them of potential conflicts or competing activities that may occur that day.

- Communicate procedures to terminate the exercise should an actual emergency occur during the exercise. (See suggestions on page 6 of this guidebook.)
- Exercise, and how it is to be marked, e.g., "This is a Test," "This is a Drill," or "This is an Exercise."
- Designate a person or agency that will enter information into RIMS during the exercise. Some operational areas may issue a password to the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), formerly known as the Operational Area Disaster Medical and Health Coordinator (OADMHC) to gain entry into the RIMS system for data input. Some may leave all data entry to OES. In a real event and in this exercise, there must be coordination between MHOACs, Health Officers, EMS and OES regarding information collection and input into the RIMS system.
- Invite other participating agencies, departments or organizations to briefings or training for the exercise.
- Contact and update other agencies, departments or organizations about any last-minute changes in participation or communications.

Coordination with the Media

Work closely with the local agencies/departments Public Information Officer to define how the media will be addressed during the planning process, during the exercise, and afterwards. Ensure that media releases are prepared ahead of time, sound bites are already taped, and that an area for briefing the media is prepared away from the exercise area (if local agencies/departments believes that such coverage would be disruptive to completing the exercise objectives).

For examples of Public Service Announcements and Media Advisories, see page 11 and 12 in the 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Guidebook.

Scheduling Personnel, Space, and Equipment

Logistics are critical for successful exercise outcomes. To do this you can:

- Schedule all Disaster Exercise participants in advance to coordinate their schedules. For critical positions, schedule back-up participants who are also briefed and trained prior to the exercise.
- Put the exercise date on local agencies/departments calendars, in-house publications or computer schedules so all involved personnel save the date when they are scheduling other activities.
- ∠ Identify and reserve the exercise location/space before the exercise.
- Monitor the exercise area to make sure construction or other changes do not hinder the layout for performance of the exercise, e.g., removal of the phone lines from the room, or removal of the chairs and tables.
- ZZ Develop a checklist of the equipment you will need to support the exercise.
- EX Check all equipment for proper functioning and operation before the exercise.

Reporting Intent

Each participating entity will define its level of participation and complete the "Intent to Participate" form (see page 13 and 14 in the 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Guidebook). The participating entity will fax the "Intent to Participate" form to the Exercise Contact by **September 14, 2001**. Upon receipt of the form, the Exercise Contact will compile the participant totals (see page 15).

The Exercise Contact will complete the "Operational Area Intent to Participate" form (see page 15 in the 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Guidebook):

- - Note: the "Intent to Participate" forms are for healthcare facilities, ambulance providers and ACS providers only.
- Æ The Exercise Contact should ascertain the number of other participating agencies/departments that will participate in the disaster exercise.
- EThe Exercise Contact will fax the "Operational Area Intent to Participate" form to the Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS) no later than close of business on **September 21, 2001**. (See page 44 in the 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Guidebook for listing of RDMHS contact numbers)

Coordination with the Local Office of Emergency Services and the Dispatch Center

It is critical that other local agencies/departments are aware of and are invited to participate in the exercise. Consider including the following organizations:

- ZZ Local Emergency Medical Services Agency
- ZZ Local Office of Emergency Services
- ∠ County Health Officer
- Sheriff's Office
- ZZ County Dispatch
- ZZ County Public Information Officer
- ∠
 ∠
 Local American Red Cross
- ∠∠ Local Amateur Radio Groups
- ∠ Local Disaster Councils
- **EX** Operational Area Councils

Local agencies/departments will decide their scale and intensity of participation, in addition to their necessary role to transmit information from the hospitals and ambulance service providers through the chain of government communications.

Suggestions for local agencies/departments scope of participation:

- ∠
 ∠
 A conduit of information
- **An active participant in communications tests**
- An active participant in a tabletop exercise
- An active participant in a functional exercise

Exercise participation can be coordinated through cooperative planning meetings and briefings.

Developing Local Scenarios in Accordance with the Master Sequence of Events

Included in the 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook is a **Master Sequence of Events** (see page 7) to be used by participants. This sequence provides the overall anticipated schedule of activities that all participants are expected to incorporate into their exercise. Local agencies and departments may plan an extended exercise scenario and Local agencies/departments will decide their scale and intensity of participation and their role in transmitting information from the hospitals and ambulance service providers through the chain of government communications.

This year, the Disaster Exercise includes "sheltering-in-place" as part of the scenario. Exercise participants may need additional training and information about "sheltering-in-place". Samples of policies and procedures for "sheltering-in-place" can be found in the 2001 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook, page 27.

Exercise Conduct

Pre-exercise Survey of Resources

Changes often occur at the last minute. These can interfere with a successful exercise. Organize a team of "checkers" who do nothing more than check facility readiness, materials, storage lockers, phones, fax machines and other communications systems the evening before and the morning of the exercise.

Briefing of Participants With Background Information

Prepare the participants with background information to set the scene immediately before operations begins. The Guidebook provides an excellent scenario opening to assist with that, but you may wish to include local details specific to operations, policies and procedures to further stimulate participants.

"This is only an exercise!"

During the briefings, and throughout the exercise on November 15th, it is very important to stress that this is **only an exercise** to all participants and agencies/departments. Written materials and scripts should denote and emphasize <u>this is only an exercise</u>. Oral communications and instructions should reinforce the "exercise" status.

Ending the Exercise for Actual Emergency

Should there be a need to close down the exercise due to an actual emergency situation or event, the State Exercise Control Cell, located at the Joint Emergency Operations Center, will notify the RDMHSs to stop the exercise. The State Exercise Control Cell will give a "Terminate the Exercise" order and the exercise will be immediately terminated. Each Operational Area Exercise Contact will be notified by the RDMHS to terminate the exercise. If there is an actual emergency, you may be directed to report to your assigned disaster operations locations for an immediate briefing.

Reporting Situation/Status Information to the Operational Area (OA)

Each participating agency will compile situation and status information utilizing their own operational area forms and report to the individual Operational Area according to OA policies. The participants will begin transmitting their situation/status reports to the OA by 11:00 am on the day of the exercise.

RIMS: Reporting Operational Area Situation/Status into RIMS

NOTE: It is very important that the "training" module in RIMS is utilized to enter data during the exercise.

When RIMS is accessed, be sure that you are in the TRAINING DATA SECTION before data entry.

The Response Information Management System (RIMS) is an Internet based information management system and consists of a set of databases designed to collect information on the disaster situation, communicate action plans and request mission assignments. RIMS is accessed and utilized by operational areas, regional and State governmental agencies.

The RIMS Situation/Event Report will be entered before the exercise. Please enter RIMS information only under the <u>event named: 2001 Medical and Health Disaster Exercise</u>. It is very important to enter the Operational Area RIMS information under this event name and not a similar exercise/event/name.

On the day of the exercise, November 15, 2001, the Operational Area will enter information into RIMS at the following intervals:

- Enter an initial status report within one (1) hour of the beginning of the exercise, or at approximately 0900 am. This initial report is a "snap-shot" of the status of the OA and can be modified and expanded in subsequent reports.
- Enter status information obtained from participants beginning at 1130 am or later, compiling the information and reporting aggregate data.

Essential initial status (or "snap-shot") **information** to be entered into RIMS should include:

- EBed Availability (RIMS Status Report, Bed Availability, Resources Available)
- Estimated Casualties: Major and Minor (RIMS Status Report Number 7.a and b.)
- © Overall Medical/Health Critical Issues (RIMS Status Report Number 19)

Expanded and ongoing status information to be entered into RIMS may include, but is not limited to:

- ∠Hospital Status (RIMS Status Report Number 8.b.)
- Bed Availability for the next 8 and 24 hours (RIMS Status Report, Bed Availability, Resources Available)
- Estimated Casualties: Major and Minor (RIMS Status Report Number 7.a and b.)
- Status of SNF's, clinics and/or Field Treatment Sites (RIMS Status Report Number 9)
- Medical/Health Critical Issues (RIMS Status Report Number 19)
- Medical mutual aid needs for personnel, supplies and transport (RIMS Status Report Number 10)

Amateur Radio

See the Amateur Radio/Auxiliary Communications Systems guidebook available soon.

Post-Exercise Critiques and Reporting

Local agencies/department coordinators should plan a unified debriefing, after the exercise is complete. Utilize the "hot wash" or debriefing points in this guidebook (see page 28) to assist in the evaluation of the exercise. This "hot wash" information will also be needed for the regional and state "hot wash".

During "hot washes"/debriefings, local coordinators and evaluators should:

- ## Hold meetings in a convenient location in the community
- Act as the facilitator and allow the participants from government and the private sector to discuss the successes and challenges experienced during the exercise.
- Take meeting notes to be provided later to all participants as a feedback mechanism, including those participants who could not attend the critique.
- ZZ Develop a list of improvements needed and action items into three categories
 - -Short Term (less than six weeks to accomplish)
 - -Mid Term (up to three months)
 - –Long Term (greater than three months)
- When possible, organize a task group from critique participants to follow-up on the action items over the next three months.
- End the meeting on a high note and remind participants about the certificates from EMSA, as well as upcoming conferences to discuss the statewide results.

Participant Recognition

After the exercise, Certificates of Participation will be issued to all exercise participants upon return of the Exercise Evaluation "Master Answer Sheet" (see pages 16, 20 and 24 in the 2001 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook) to:

Cheryl Starling, RN
Emergency Medical Services Authority
1930 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Disaster Exercise

Should the Exercise Contact wish to have other organizations or people who facilitated the exercise to receive recognition and a certificate of participation or certificate of leadership, please contact Cheryl Starling at 916-322-4336, Extension 463 or email at cheryl.starling@emsa.ca.gov.

End Notes:

If you have any questions or inquiries about the 2001 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise, please contact your Regional Disaster Medical/Health Specialist (RDMHS). See page 38 in the 2001 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook for listing of RDMHS contact information.



State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

Exercise Scenario Thursday, November 15, 2001

Scenario Simulation Time Line

- 7:00 The local newspaper and television station receive an anonymous call warning of a possible terrorist event. The caller states that due to recent decisions and events in the community, there would be a retaliatory attack in the near future. The caller does not give any more details. Local law enforcement and FBI are notified of the call.
- 8:00 A deranged person drives an 18-wheel tanker truck with a hazardous chemical into a large public gathering (such as a shopping mall, convention center, sporting event) in the area. This is possibly related to the terrorist call. There is a subsequent large explosion as the truck catches fire and the contents of the truck spill.
- **8:10** 9-1-1 receives many calls reporting the incident. EMS is called to respond to a large number of people fleeing the scene. Reports state that a plume has formed and is traveling downwind from the area heading toward a heavily populated area.
- 8:15 The chemical overcomes the first responders on scene. Many victims are dead at the scene. EMS, Fire and Law enforcement respond and set up a perimeter, isolating the site.
- 8:25 News reporters and helicopters surround the area. The hospitals and EMS personnel are watching the news for details of the incident. Hospitals and healthcare providers activate Emergency Preparedness Plans.
- 8:30 Many injuries are reported by EMS. Injuries include chemical exposures, burns, trauma, chemical contamination and hysterical (worried well) victims. Your facility or area, monitoring the news on television and radio, realizes that a plume may be moving in your direction. Your facility or area has been advised to "shelter-in-place" due to the plume drifting toward you. There are also many schools and long-term care facilities in the path of the plume.

The Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OAEOC) activates. Messages go out to all cities, county departments, special districts, and Regional OES (REOCs) advising of the OA EOC's activation. City and county departments are asked to submit status reports ASAP via RIMS.

Exercise Scenario November 15, 2001

- 8:30 Your command/management group assesses that the plume is moving rapidly toward the facility/area and that evacuation is not possible. The decision is made to shelter-in-place and orders go out to facility managers to begin the process.
- 8:35 Public Health announcements via the public alert system go out to residents advising them to stay indoors, turn off any heat/air conditioning or ventilation systems.
- 9:00 Victims begin to arrive at the hospital by self-referral. EMS has been notified to divert patients to facilities outside of the plume area. The worried well also arrive demanding to be protected from the chemical. Some victims require decontamination while others require medical treatment. Note: your facility is shut down in "shelter-in-place" status. What will you do with the arriving patients?
- 9:15 The plume has traveled one mile from the area and is now dissipating. Fire officials and hazardous materials response teams have identified the chemical in the truck as Anhydrous Ammonia. The emergency responders, hospitals and the public are notified. Reminder to exercise controller, identification of the chemical should not be revealed to participants until this point in the exercise.
- **9:30** Phone lines are jammed with many people attempting calls. The phone system fails and there is an unknown time to re-establish service. Auxiliary Communications Systems are employed in the area.
- 9:45 The Regional Emergency Operations Center, the Joint Emergency Operations Center and the State Operations Center are now open and receiving requests for assistance in the local area.
- **10:00** The plume has completely dissipated and public alert announcements relay that it is now safe to go outside. The "all clear" is sounded and the need to shelter-in-place is discontinued.
 - The media arrive at your agency/facility demanding to interview patients and staff.
- **10:30** Phone service has been re-established in the area.
- **11:00** All facilities, agencies and providers report status to the Operational Area.
- 11:30 The Regional Emergency Operations Center begins to receive reports from the operational area and relays the information and resource requests to the Joint Emergency Operations Center and the State Operations Center.
- **12:00** Exercise ends.



State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

Anhydrous Ammonia	A chemical liquid that vaporizes. Vapors are extremely irritating and corrosive and may be fatal if inhaled. Contact with gas or liquefied gas may cause burns, severe injury and/or frostbite. Fire will produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases. Runoff from fire control may cause pollution. For more information see Department of Transportation, 2000 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG 000), Guide 125, Page 215, ID Number 1005 or other resources.
Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS)	The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) is an emergency communications unit that provides State and local government with a variety of professional unpaid [volunteer] skills, including administrative, technical and operational for emergency tactical, administrative and logistical communications; such as with its agencies, cities within the Operational Area, neighboring governments, and the State OES Region. Its basic mission is the emergency support of civil defense, disaster response, and recovery with telecommunications resources and personnel.
California Amateur	CARES is specifically tasked to provide amateur radio
Radio Emergency	communications support for the medical and health disaster
Services (CARES)	response to state government.
Communications	The communications exercise is designed to test and evaluate communication systems including lines and methods of
Exercise	communication systems including lines and methods of communicating during a disaster. Alternative communication
2.010.00	systems can also be tested, including amateur radio, cell, and
	satellite systems, among others.
Decontamination	Hazardous materials: Decontamination consists of removing contaminants or changing their chemical nature to innocuous substances. Radioactive materials: The reduction or removal of radioactive material from a structure, area, person or object. A surface may
	be treated, washed down or swept to remove the contamination. Isolating the area or object contaminated, and letting the material stand can also control contamination.

Emergency	A condition of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, hazardous material incident, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestations or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy.		
Emergency Operations	Those actions taken during the emergency period to protect life and property, care for the people affected, and temporarily restore essential community services.		
Emergency Operations Center	A centralized location from which emergency operations can be directed and coordinated.		
Exposure versus contamination	Exposure: Subjected to, or exposed to, a contaminant in an unprotected or partially protected manner, but not necessarily contaminated by an agent. Contamination: Contact with a hazardous or infective agent in an unprotected manner.		
Functional Exercise	The functional exercise is an activity designed to test or evaluate the capabilities of the disaster response system. It can take place in the location where the activity might normally take place, such as the command center or incident command post. It can involve deploying equipment in a limited, function-specific capacity. This exercise is fully simulated with written or verbal messages.		
Full Scale Exercise	This type of exercise is intended to evaluate the operational capability of emergency responders in an interactive manner over a substantial period of time. It involves the testing of a major portion of the basic elements existing in the emergency operations plans and organizations in a stress environment. Personnel and resources are mobilized.		
Hazardous material	A substance or combination of substances, which, because of quantity, concentration, physical, chemical radiological, explosive, or infectious characteristics, poses a substantial present or potential danger to humans or the environment.		
Hazardous material incident	Any release of a material capable of posing a risk to health, safety and property. Areas at risk include facilities that produce, process, transport or store hazardous material, as well as all sites that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous material.		
Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS)	HEICS is an emergency management system that employs a logical, unified management (command) structure, defined responsibilities, clear reporting channels, and a common nomenclature to help unify hospitals with other emergency responders. Information on HEICS can be obtained through the California EMS Authority at 916-322-4336 or on the website at www.emsa.ca.gov.		

Incident Command System (ICS)	The nationally used standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demand of single or multiple incident without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, with the responsibility to management of resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertinent to an incident.	
Joint Emergency Operations Center (JEOC)	The JEOC is a unified operations center for medical and health response to disasters. The JEOC is responsible for developing and implementing combined State-level medical and health policy, managing State-level medical and health response, procurement of medical and health resources, developing the State-level medical and health action plan and maintaining accurate information on the medical and health situation.	
Local Emergency (State definition)	The duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, earthquake or other conditions which are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of a political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.	
Long-Term Care Facilities	A collective term for healthcare facilities designated for the care and treatment of patients or residents requiring rehabilitation or extended care for chronic conditions. The Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification Division licenses these facilities.	
Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) (Formerly known as OADMHC)	The OAC is responsible for coordinating mutual aid resource requests, facilitating the development of local medical/health response plans and implementing the medical/health plans during a disaster response. During a disaster, the OAC directs the medical/health branch of the Operational Area EOC and establishes priorities for medical/health response and requests. This coordinator was formerly known as the Operational Area Disaster Medical/Health Coordinator.	
Operational Area	An intermediate level of the State emergency services organization, consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county.	
Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Services (RACES)	The RACES is a local or state government program established by a civil defense official. It becomes operational by: 1) appointing a Radio Officer, 2) preparing a RACES Plan, and 3) training and utilizing FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators. RACES (whether part of an ACS, or as a stand along unit) is usually attached to a state or local government's emergency preparedness office, or to a department designated by that office, such as the sheriff's, or communications department.	

	The Deviand Engage of Operations Contact (DECC) is the first
	The Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is the first
Basissas	level facility of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to
Regional Emergency	manage a disaster. The REOC provides an emergency support
Operations Center	staff operating from a fixed facility, who are responsive to the
(REOC)	needs of the operational areas and coordinates with the State
	Operations Center.
	As prescribed in legislation, the principal function of the RDMHC
Regional Disaster	during a disaster is to act as an agent of the State for the purpose
Medical & Health	of locating, mobilizing and deploying mutual aid resources at the
Coordinator	request of State officials in support of mutual aid requests from
(RDMHC)	other impacted regions.
(1.12.11.13)	The RDMHS assists the State in the development of regional
Regional Disaster	plans for the provision of medical and health mutual aid resources
Medical & Health	and coordinates intra-regional medical and health mutual aid in
Specialist (RDMHS)	the event of a disaster within the region.
Specialist (INDIVITIO)	
Posnonso	The Response Information Management System (RIMS) is an
Response Information	Internet based information management system and consists of a
	set of databases designed to collect information on the disaster
Management System	situation, communicate action plans and request mission
(RIMS)	assignments. RIMS is accessed and utilized by operational
	areas, regional and State governmental agencies.
	Shelter-In-Place: Nationally accepted term indicating the need to
	go or stay inside, close all sources of outside air and listen to
Shelter-in-Place	instructions broadcast. It is the process of protecting yourself and
	your facility from the environmental hazards resulting from a
	chemical release. The pneumonic is: "Shelter-Shut & Listen".
	SEMS is the emergency management system identified by
Standardized	Government code 8607 for managing emergency response to
Emergency	multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional operations. SEMS is based on
Management System	the Incident Command system and is intended to standardize
(SEMS)	response to emergencies in California.
	The SOC is established by OES to oversee, as necessary, the
State Operations	REOC, and is activated when more than one (1) REOC is
Center (SOC)	opened. The SOC establishes overall response priorities, and
(/	coordinates with federal responders.
	Green : Provider is able to carry out normal operational functions
	Yellow : Some reductions in patient services, but overall, provider
Status Codes	is able to carry out normal operational functions
	Red : Significant reductions in-patient services. Emergency
	services only being provided.
	Black: Provider has been severely affected. Unable to continue
	any services
	An exercise that takes place in a classroom or meeting room
	setting. Situations and problems presented in the form of written
	or verbal questions generate discussions of actions to be taken
Tabletop Exercise	based upon the emergency plan and standard emergency
= = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	operating procedures. The purpose is to have participants
	practice problem solving and resolve questions of coordination
	and assignment in a non-threatening format, under minimal
	stress.



State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

COUNTY	CONTACT NAME, TITLE & ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBERS
Alameda	Cynthia Frankel Alameda EMS 1000 Broadway Ste 500 Oakland, CA 94607	Phone: 510-267-8080 Fax: 510-465-5624 Email: cfrankel@ph.mail.co.alameda.ca.us
Alpine Amador Calaveras Stanislaus	Doug Buchanan Deputy Director Mountain Valley EMS 1101 Standiford Ave Modesto, CA 95350	Phone: 209-529-5085 Fax: 209-529-1496 Email: dbuchanan@mvemsa.com
Butte	Dr. Mark Lundberg Health Officer 18 County Center Dr., Suite B Oroville, CA 95965	Phone: 530-538-7581 Fax: 530-538-2165 Email: mlundberg@buttecounty.net
Colusa	Dr. James Dibdin Health Officer 251 E. Webster St. Colusa, CA 95932	Phone: 530-458-0280 Fax: 530-458-4136 Email: <u>HO@colusanet.com</u>
Contra Costa	Dan Guerra Contra Costa EMS 50 Glacier Drive Martinez, CA 94553	Phone: 925-646-4690 Fax: 925-646-4379 Email: dguerra@hsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us
Del Norte	Barbara Center RDMHS- Region II 1340 Arnold Drive #126 Martinez, CA 94553	Phone: 925-646-4690 Fax: 925-646-4379 Email: bcenter@hsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us
El Dorado	Kaya Goodwin El Dorado Public Health 931 Spring Street Placerville, CA 95667	Phone: 530-621-6119 Fax: 530-626-4713 Email: <u>gehamlin@innercite.com</u>
Fresno Kings Madera	Lee Adley, RDMHS PO Box 11867 Fresno, CA 93775	Phone: 559-445-3387 Fax: 559-445-3205 Email: <u>Ladley@fresno.ca.gov</u>
Glenn	Susan Thurman Public Health 240 N. Villa Avenue Willows, CA 95988	Phone: 530-934-6588 Fax: 530-934-6463 Email: NA

COUNTY	CONTACT NAME, TITLE & ADDRESS Clarke Guzzi	CONTACT NUMBERS
Humboldt	Humboldt Public Health 529 "I" Street Eureka, CA 95501	Phone: 707-268-2187 Fax: 707-445-6097 Email: cguzzi@co.humboldt.ca.us
Imperial	John Pritting 935 Broadway El Centro, CA 92243	Phone: 760-482-4468 Fax: 760-482-9933 Email: johnpritting@imperialcounty.net
Inyo	Tamara Pound PO Box Drawer H Independence, CA 93526	Phone: 760-878-0232 Fax: 760-878-0241 Email: <u>inyohhs@qnet.com</u>
Kern	Russ Blind Interim EMS Director 1400 H Street Bakersfield, CA 93301	Phone: 661-861-3200 Fax: 661-322-8453 Email: <u>blindr@co.kern.ca.us</u>
Lake	Richard Arnold Lake Co. Dept. of Health 922 Bevins Ct. Lakeport, CA 95453	Phone: 707-263-1090 Fax: 707-263-1662 Email: <u>richarda@co.lake.ca.us</u>
Lassen	Chip Jackson OES 220 S. Lassen, Suite 1 Susanville, CA 96130	Phone: 530-251-8222 Fax: 530-257-9363 Email: <u>lascooes@psln.com</u>
Los Angeles	Larry Smith, MHOAC 5555 Ferguson Drive Ste. 220 Commerce, CA 90022	Phone: (323) 890-7559 Fax: (323) 890-8536 Email: lasmith@dhs.co.la.ca.us
Marin	Troy Peterson Marin EMS 161 Mitchell Blvd. Ste. 100 San Rafael, CA 94903	Phone: 415-499-3287 Fax: 415-499-3747 Email: <u>tpeterson@marin.org</u>
Mariposa	Glyn Scharf EMS Coordinator PO Box 5 Mariposa, CA 95338	Phone: 209-966-3689 Fax: 209-966-4929 Email: <u>gscharf@mvemsa.com</u>
Mendocino	Steve Francis Coastal Valley EMS/Mendocino 890 Bush St. Ukiah, CA 95482	Phone: 707-463-4590 Fax: 707-467-2551 Email: <u>franciss@co.mendocino.ca.us</u>
Merced	Chuck Baucom EMS Administrator 260 E. 15 th Street Merced, CA 95340	Phone: 209-381-1255 Fax: 209-389-1381 Email: <u>he39@co.merced.ca.us</u>

	CONTRA CITA NA ARE	
COLINITA	CONTACT NAME,	CONTACT NUMBERS
COUNTY	TITLE & ADDRESS	
Madaa	Nancy Ballard	Dhana: 520 222 4440
Modoc	Modoc Co. OES	Phone: 530-233-4416
	P.O. Drawer 460	Fax: 530-233-4971
	Alturas, CA 96101	Email: nballard@sheriff.co.modoc.ca.us
	Chris Mokracek	Dhono: 760 022 5210
Mono	PO Box 616	Phone: 760-932-5210
Mono		Fax: 760-934-5198
	Bridgeport, CA 93517	Email: jaichermcso@aol.com
	Don Hiatt	Dhana: 024 755 5042
Maratarras	Monterey EMS	Phone: 831-755-5013
Monterrey	19065 Portola Dr. Ste. 1	Fax: 831-455-0680
	Salinas, CA	Email: hiattd@co.monterey.ca.us
	Randy Linthicum	Dhamar 707 050 4400
Nama	Coastal Valley	Phone: 707-253-4199
Napa	EMS/Napa	Fax: 707-259-8122
	1500 Third Street	Email: <u>rlinthic@co.napa.ca.us</u>
	Suite B	
	Napa, CA 94559	
	Jess Montoya	
Name	Nevada Co. Health &	Db
Nevada	Human Services	Phone: 530-265-7016
	10433 Willow Valley Rd	Fax: 530-265-1426
	Nevada City, CA 95959	Email: jess.montoya@co.nevada.ca.us
	Paul Russell, MHOAC	DI (74.4) 004.0404
	405 West Fifth St.	Phone: (714) 834-3124
Orange	Suite 301A	Fax: (714) 834-3125
	Santa Ana, CA 92701	Email: prussell@hca.co.orange.ca.us
	Young Rodriguez	DI 500 000 5000
D.	Placer County OES	Phone: 530-886-5300
Placer	2968 Richardson St.	Fax: 530-886-5343
	Auburn, CA 95603	Email: yrodrigu@placer.ca.gov
	Sandy Norton, PHN	DI 500 000 0040
	Health Dept.	Phone: 530-283-6346
Plumas	PO Box 3140	Fax: 530-283-6110
	Quincy, CA 95971	Email: snorton@pchealth.net
	Karen Petrilla	DI 000 050 5000
D:	4065 County Circle Dr.	Phone: 909-358-5029
Riverside	PO box 7600	Fax: 909-358-5160
	Riverside, CA 92513	Email: kpetrill@co.riverside.ca.us

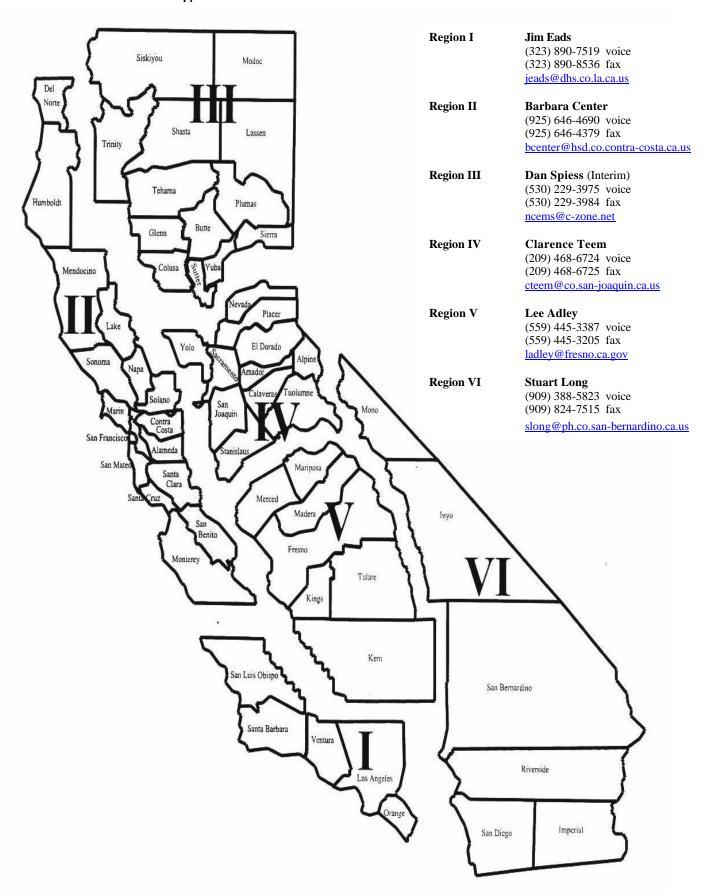
COUNTY	CONTACT NAME, TITLE & ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBERS
Sacramento	Bruce Wagner Sacramento Co. EMS 9616 Micron Ave. Ste 635 Sacramento, CA 95827	Phone: 916-875-9753 Fax: 916-875-9711 Email: <u>wagner@saccounty.net</u>
San Benito	Margie Riopel San Benito County EMS 471 Fourth Street Hollister, CA 95023	Phone: 831-636-4168 Fax: 831-636-4104 Email: sboes@hollinet.com
San Bernardino	George Bolton Medical/Health Disaster Coordinator 515 N. Arrowhead Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92415	Phone: 909-388-5831 Fax: 909-388-5825 Email: gbolton@ph.co.san-bernadino.ca.us
San Diego	Jeri Bonesteele 6255 Mission Gorge Rd San Diego, CA 92120	Phone: 619-285-6505 Fax: 619-285-6531 Email: jboneshe@co.san-diego.ca.us
San Francisco	Steve LaPlante San Francisco EMS 1540 Market St. Suite 220 San Francisco, CA 94102	Phone: 415-554-9149 Fax: 415-241-0519 Email: <u>steve_laplante@dph.sf.ca.us</u>
San Joaquin	Darrell Cramphorn San Joaquin EMS PO Box 1020 Stockton, CA 95201	Phone: 209-468-6818 Fax: 209-468-6725 Email: dcramphorn@co.san-joaquin.ca.us
San Luis Obispo	Tom Lynch, MHOAC 712 Fiero Lane, #29 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	Phone: (805) 546-8728 Fax: (805) 546-8736 Email: sloemsa@fix.net
San Mateo	Matt Lucett San Mateo EMS 225 W. 37 th Avenue San Mateo, CA 94403	Phone: 650-573-2564 Fax: 650-573-2029 Email: mlucett@co.sanmateo.ca.us
Santa Barbara	Rick Ceriale, MHOAC 300 North San Antonio Rd - Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316	Phone: (805) 681-5274 Fax: (805) 681-5142 Email: rcerial@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Operational Area (County) Exercise Contacts

	CONTACT NAME,	
COUNTY	TITLE & ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBERS
	Robert Petrucci	
	Santa Clara EMS	Phone: 408-885-4252
Santa Clara	645 So. Bascom Ave.	Fax: 408-885-3538
	Suite 125	Email: rob.petrucci@hhs.co.santa-
	San Jose, CA 95128	<u>clara.ca.us</u>
	Vol Ranger	
	Santa Cruz EMS	Phone: 831-454-4751
Santa Cruz	1080 Emeline Ave.	Fax: 831-454-4272
	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Email: v.ranger@health.santa-cruz.ca.us
	Melissa Janulewicz	DI 500 005 5000
01	Family Health Manager	Phone: 530-225-5066
Shasta	2650 Breslauer Way	Fax: 530-225-5074
	Reddding, CA 96001 Liz Fisher	Email: mjanulewicz@co.shasta.ca.us
	OES	Phone: 530-289-0212
Sierra	PO Box 513	Fax: 530-289-0212
Sierra	Downieville, CA 95936	Email: scoes@sccn.net
	Grizz Adams	Lilidii. Scoes@Sccil.flet
	OES	Phone: 530-842-8379
Siskiyou	311 Lane St.	Fax: 530-842-8378
Ciorayou	Yreka, CA 96097	Email: sisqoes@snowcrest.net
	Michael Frenn	Zilidiii dieqeee enewereenine
	Solano EMS	Phone: 707-421-6685
Solano	1735 Enterprise Dr.	Fax: 707-421-6682
	Bldg. #3, MS 3-110	Email: mfrenn@solanocounty.com
	Fairfield, CA 94533	
	Mike DuVall	
	Coastal Valley EMS	Phone: 707-565-6501
Sonoma	3273 Airway Dr. Ste E	Fax: 707-565-6506
	Santa Rosa, CA 95403	Email: mduvall@sonoma-county.org
	Mike Harrold	
	OES	Phone: 530-822-7400
Sutter	1160 Civic Center Blvd.,	Fax: 530-822-7109
	#E	Email: mharrold@co.sutter.ca.us
	Yuba City, CA 95993	
	Valerie Lucero, PHN	Dhono: 520 507 6004
Tehama	Health Dept. 1860 Walnut St.	Phone: 530-527-6824 Fax: 530-0362
renama	Red Bluff, CA 96080	Email: lucerov@tcha.net
	Elise Osvold-	Email. iucerov@tcha.net
	Doppelhaur, PHN	Phone: 530-623-8215
Trinity	Health Dept.	Fax: 530-623-1297
	PO Box 1470	Email: eosvolddoppelhauer@trinitycounty.org
	Weaverville, CA 96093	
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COUNTY	CONTACT NAME, TITLE & ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBERS
Tulare	Patricia Crawford EMS Director 5957 S. Mooney Blvd. Visalia, CA 93277	Phone: 559-737-4660 Fax: 559-737-4693 Email: pcrawfor@tularehhsa.org
Tuolomne	Dan Burch Tuolumne EMS 1210 Sanguinetti Rd. Sonora, CA 95370	Phone: 209-536-0620 Fax: 209-533-4761 Email: tcems@mlode.com
Ventura	Josh Davies, MHOAC 2323 Knoll Drive #100 - Ventura, CA 93003	Phone: (805) 677-5270 Fax: (805) 677-5290 Email: josh.davies@mail.co.ventura.ca.us
Yolo	Dan McCanta Yolo OES 35 No. Cottonwood St. Woodland, CA 95698	Phone: 530-666-8930 Fax: 530-666-8909 Email: <u>yolo-oes@yolo.com</u>
Yuba	Kelly Purdom OES 215 5 th St. Marysville, CA 95901	Phone: 530-749-7520 Fax: 530-741-6549 Email: <u>kpoes@yahoo.com</u>

OES Mutual Aid Regions





State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

RESPONSE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RIMS) TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS USE OF RIMS DURING THE 2001 EXERCISE

I. RIMS Access Issues:

- a. Established RIMS users have a password into RIMS and will log onto RIMS using their individual assigned access and password.
- b. If you do not have RIMS access, please contact Cheryl Starling at the EMS Authority at 916-322-4336 or cheryl.starling@emsa.ca.gov for a temporary password assignment and the procedure for obtaining RIMS access.

II. RIMS System Issues and Use:

- When you access RIMS, you will notice that the screens are different. These
 changes were made to standardize State of California websites, but the RIMS
 screens and information remain essentially unchanged.
- b. It is **essential to utilize the training module** to enter information into RIMS during the exercise!
 - Men RIMS is accessed, click on the bar "Click here for RIMS Training"

 - ∠Enter your username and password
 - You have now accessed RIMS and are on the "Situation Reports--Current Situations" page.
 - ∠Do not create an event or incident report. An event and incident report are
 generally completed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)
 state or regional divisions.
 - For the exercise, the event will be created by the planners and entered into RIMS early in the morning of November 15, 2001. The exercise event/incident name will be "2001 Statewide Medical/Health Disaster Exercise".
- c. In order to view all fields in RIMS pages, the computer display must be set to at least 800 X 600 pixels. If not set at this minimum pixel display, you will not be able to view all the items on the screens.

III. Entering RIMS Information:

EThe first screen is the "Situation Reports-Current Situations" screen. On this screen, all events are summarized and you can review the current event(s) and other RIMS reports.

RIMS Tips and Suggestions

- ZAt the top left of the main screen, click on "Create a Report"
- All This opens the pull-down menu to designate the type of report you will be making. Click on "Status/Medical/Health" as your *initial* entry.
 - o There is also a field named "Status/Medical Resource Status" on the pull-down menu. This is a reporting of medical resources (physician, nurses, etc.) and hospital bed capacity projections. This would be an additional report to complete and submit, if possible within two hours of the disaster.
- **Ex**Complete the information as required in all the boxes.
 - Note: when asked for the incident name, click on the "2001 Statewide Medical/Health Disaster Exercise" from the pull-down menu.
- zemportant initial status information should include at a minimum:
 - i. Estimated Casualties (RIMS "Status Medical/Health", Number 7)
 - ii. Status of Hospitals (RIMS "Status Medical/Health", Number 8)
 - iii. Medical/Health Critical Issues and Actions Taken (RIMS "Status Medical/Health", Number 19)
 - iv. Bed availability projections ("RIMS Status/Medical Resource Status", Hospital Bed Categorization")

IV. RIMS Access and "Time-Out":

Important note: The RIMS program has a built in "time-out" feature, and will disconnect the user from the system after approximately 30 minutes. In order to save your entered information, please consider the following:

- Alave as much information as possible collected and ready for entry into RIMS.
- Complete all "red flagged" or red highlighted areas on the "Create a Report" screen. If all the critical fields are not completed, the report will not be accepted.
- ZZTo save the information in RIMS, submit the report, even if not fully completed.
- Once you have submitted the information, it is saved, and the information/report can be "modified. With each modification, the changes are saved and updated, and the most current information saved on the RIMS database and viewing screens. This will prevent loss of information and waste of time should you be "timed-out"!
- ZeTo modify your report, on the RIMS menu on the left of the screen, pick the report you want to modify: Status-Medical/Health or Status-Medical Resource Status. Click on the report to open the file.
- A pop-up box will appear, "MODIFY". Click on that box, and update or enter new information as needed.
- Remember the "time-out" feature, and submit the modified information within the 30-minute timeframe.
- ZaThe initial data is never lost, it is archived on the RIMS database, but RIMS will display the most current information.

RIMS classes will be made available before the exercise. Please contact your RDMHS or Cheryl Starling at the EMS Authority for information.

For copies of RIMS Medical/Health Status Report And Medical/Health Resource Status Report Please go to the RIMS website

Exercise Participant Evaluation

"Hotwash"

After-Action Debriefing

This is a suggested list of questions that will be used by the Operational Area (County) Medical/Health Exercise Contact, or designee, to conduct a debriefing or "hotwash" for the exercise participants. Please elicit as much detail as possible and compile the information.

It is recommended to appoint one person to conduct the debriefing and to moderate as required. A scribe can be directed to track and document comments and recommendations made by the participants during the hotwash. The Operational Area (County) Disaster Medical/Health Exercise Contact, or designee, should compile and submit the hotwash information to the Regional Disaster Medical/Health Specialist (RDMHS) during a regional hotwash to be announced at a later date.

It is suggested to schedule the operational area debriefing as soon as possible after the exercise.

Debriefing Questions

- 1. Was the information contained in the Disaster Exercise Guidebook clear and concise? What changes/additions would you suggest?
- 2. Was the "Intent to Participate" form user friendly? Would you suggest any additions or deletions?
- 3. Were the "Exercise Objectives" clear and applicable to a potential real life situation?
- 4. Were the instructions on the "Exercise Scenario" and the "Master Sequence of Events" clear?
- 5. Did you change or expand the exercise scenario to meet the needs of your facility? If so, how?
- 6. What items/sections of the Disaster Exercise Guidebook were the most helpful?
- 7. Any suggestions for improvement in any of the items or sections of the Disaster Exercise Guidebook?

Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001

After-Action Debriefing

- 8. Were the pre-exercise time frames/expectations reasonable? What would you do differently?
- 9. Did you test communication systems?
 - a. Did you use an alternative communication system during the exercise (i.e. amateur radio)?

If yes:

- Describe the benefits and/or problems with data transmission via amateur radio
- ii. Was the specific information requested from hospitals, ambulance providers, blood banks and others useful?
- iii. What would you add/delete?
- iv. How would you resolve any problems or issues in the future?
- b. Did you use other communication technologies during the exercise (i.e. fax, email, internet, etc.)?

If yes: What were the benefits and what worked well?
What did not work well, what problems or issues did you have?
How would you resolve any problems or issues in the future?

- 10. Describe the use of the Response Information Management System (RIMS) in your county.
 - a. Where and by whom was the information entered into RIMS?
 - b. Was the information requested from the hospitals pertinent to the situation and helpful to you?
 - c. Will the overall medical/health information requested on the RIMS forms be pertinent in a real life situation?
 - d. What suggestions would you offer for revisions to the medical/health RIMS data?
 - e. What training, administrative or logistical issues need to be addressed?
- 11. If the Operational Area's Emergency Operations Center was activated:
 - a. Was the interaction with disaster management officials at the operational area's EOC useful and provide you with direction, information and assistance?
 - b. Describe your interaction with the EOC in your operational area.
 - i. What worked well?
 - ii. What could be improved?
- 12. What training issues or points did you identify during the exercise that needs to be addressed before the next exercise/actual event?

Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise November 15, 2001 After-Action Debriefing

- 13. Results of and lessons learned on "sheltering-in-place" of a facility or organization/agency.
- 14. Any other issues or items for the debriefing?

Debriefing wrap-up:

- 1. Thank all participants for their collaboration and participation in the exercise.
- 2. Please emphasize the value of the statewide disaster exercise.

The Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise will be held <u>annually in the first two</u> <u>weeks of November</u>. Participants are encouraged to plan their facility exercises (drills) accordingly to take advantage of this statewide exercise.

3. Remind all participants that the "Master Answer Sheets" for evaluation of the exercise can be found in the 2001 Medical and Health Disaster Exercise Guidebook on pages 16, 20, and 24. The Master Answer Sheets must be completed and mailed to:

Emergency Medical Services Authority 1930 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Attention: Disaster Exercise

4. Upon receipt of the evaluation forms, the participant will receive a **Certificate of Participation** from the State EMS Authority.

Thank you very much for your participation!